GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:151
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2016
Gender Sensitisation Units in Colleges
Tharoor Dr. Shashi

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has set up a Gender Sensitisation Unit within the University Grants Commission (UGC) which would act as the nodal division for formulation policies to combat gender discrimination and gender violence in colleges and universities policies to the country as recommended in the 'Saksham' report on Safety of Women and Gender Sensitisation on Campuses;
(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the Ministry would also consider setting up similar gender sensitisation units in all Central Universities to create awareness on gender issues and assist victims of gender discrimination; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)
(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that it has constituted a Gender Sensitization Cell, headed by an Additional Secretary in UGC, as a nodal unit in UGC on gender issues.
(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The UGC has informed that it has written letters to Vice-Chancellors of all Universities on 28th January, 2015 and 23rd July, 2015 to constitute Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) to deal with issues of gender based violence, to conduct gender sensitization programmes and to give effect to a policy of zero tolerance on campuses for gender based violence and sexual harassment. These communications are available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/9286213_sexualharassment.pdf.
The constitution of ICCs in higher educational institutions is also a mandatory requirement under the recently notified UGC (Prevention, prohibition and redressal of sexual harassment of women employees and students in higher educational institutions) Regulations, 2015 in the Gazette of India. The regulations are available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/1984034_UGC-letter-Rajpatra0001-(2).pdf.
These Regulations prescribe responsibilities of the higher educational institutions, grievance redressal mechanism, process for making complaint and conducting inquiry, interim redressal, punishment and compensation, consequences of non-compliance etc. The regulations are binding on all Universities and colleges. The UGC has requested Vice-Chancellors of all Universities to ensure implementation of above regulations in Universities and affiliated colleges.
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